

Testimony of Barbara Rudnick
44 Stony Mill Lane
East Berlin, Ct.06023

Member of CT Votes for Animals, The CT Underhound Railroad and a volunteer with the New Britain Animal Shelter

Concerning House Bill No. SB 274
An Act Prohibiting The Unreasonable Confinement And Tethering Of Dogs.
March 8, 2010

Senator Meyer, Representative Roy, members of the Environment Committee, thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns on House Bill SB 274.

I have worked with animal welfare and rescue for more than 20 years. I ask your support of this bill because no dog should suffer the neglect of being excessively tethered with inadequate shelter or care. The dogs of Connecticut deserve better and need to be treated with dignity and compassion.

- SB 274 will ensure enforcement of the dog tethering and confinement law by clarifying the conduct that it prohibits.
- Dogs are social animals and require interaction and exercise, which tethered dogs do not receive.
- Tethered dogs present public safety concerns due to aggressive behavior.

I have sadly witnessed several dogs in my life that were chained to a couple of pieces of wood the owners referred to as a shelter. The small area around them was usually covered with dirt and feces. Never did I see a ball or toy and in most cases the water dish was turned over as the poor dogs ran back and forth just hoping that someone would stop and play with them. Unfortunately on that rare occasion when someone did stop they would jump all over them simply because they were so starving for attention. Since the poor dog was now covered in dirt, feces and mud no one stayed long. I also remember the look in their eyes of such sadness.

What I remember the most regarding these dogs was that they were left out every day and night in the freezing cold. I did make a complaint to the ACO, but she informed me that the language was so vague that the pieces of wood were actually considered adequate. To me their lives were filled with neglect, abuse and they were not companion animals, but prisoners. I will never understand why people like this would get a dog?

I ask you to please support Bill 274 and urge the committee to incorporate amendments proposed by CT Votes for Animals and the ASPCA.

Thank you,

Barbara Rudnick